

JONAH

Jonah – 10/25/2020

OVERVIEW

The story of Jonah is most often remembered as a children's picture book. But what happens when we look closer and start to understand the reality of the story? Storybook characters come to life, and we begin to realize the deeper meaning of Jonah's actions. Jonah's response to God's calling was not out of fear, but out of knowing who God was and that He would change the people of Nineveh. Who's your Nineveh? Who is God calling you to love today?

Scriptures: Jonah 1:2, 14; Jonah 3:2, 4b, 6-7

APPLICATION

- Even when Jonah was thrown over the side of the boat, God was not finished with him yet. Describe a time in your life when, despite your actions, God showed you grace and that He was not finished with you.
- Despite Jonah's half-hearted obedience, the people of Nineveh start to respond by humbling themselves before God and hoping for His mercy. Share about a time in your life when people responded in an unexpected way.
- Jonah ran because he knew God would use his message to change the people of Nineveh. Jonah knew God as merciful, compassionate, and eager to save the city. What reasons have you used to run from God?

EVALUATE: God uses the plant to teach Jonah a lesson about how He feels about the people of Nineveh. As Jonah cared about the plant above his head, God cared for the 120,000 people of Nineveh. Who's your "Nineveh" (who do you view as an enemy)? Is it a person, a people group, a movement?

GO DEEP: Are you okay with God loving your enemy? Are you okay with God loving your enemy through you?

TAKE ACTION: Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and replace the word "love" with your name. Ask yourself: "Is this true of the way I treat my enemy?" Spend time in prayer asking God to help you love your enemy in those ways.